

A Brief Overview of Maine's Progressive Treatment Program

What is this new program?



The Progressive Treatment Program (PTP) was established in law in 2006 by the 122nd Maine Legislature. It is a program limited to certain persons with severe and persistent mental illness who are involuntarily hospitalized at Riverview or Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Centers and meet specific criteria. If these criteria are met, a person can be assigned by the court to a specialized outpatient Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team where he or she will receive treatment in the least restrictive setting. The PTP is available only in the Augusta and Bangor areas.

Who is eligible for this new service?



A person 21 years old or older who is severely mentally ill and has chosen not to accept treatment is a candidate for the Progressive Treatment Program. If she or he is committed to Riverview (Augusta) or Dorothea Dix (Bangor) Psychiatric Center, and has shown a good response to treatment during a hospital stay, then that person may be considered for the PTP.

How does a person get referred for PTP services?



The inpatient treatment team at either Riverview Psychiatric Center or Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center consults with the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) service provider in that area and makes a formal application to the court for commitment to the PTP to receive the services of an outpatient Assertive Community Treatment Team.

How is the court involved?



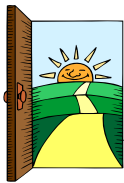
The judge considers the application presented by the hospital team and the person's attorney and accepts or rejects the application. If the judge accepts the team's recommendation, he or she orders assignment to the PTP for a period of six months. The person is then committed to outpatient ACT services.

What are ACT services?



The Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team is a multi-disciplinary group of mental health professionals who work closely to provide a broad range of treatment and rehabilitation services. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and meet the person receiving their services wherever he or she needs them, at home, at work, or in a coffee shop.

How does the person leave the PTP?



After six months, if the person has participated in the ACT services as ordered by the court, and become more stable in his or her community living situation, the PTP ends. The person can continue receiving services from the ACT Team if he or she chooses. If a person needs hospitalization during the six month term of the PTP, and chooses to accept it on a voluntary basis, the PTP is suspended until he or she is able to return to the community. Sometimes it may be necessary to return a person to the hospital on an emergency involuntary basis. If that person is not willing to stay on a voluntary basis and is determined to need continued hospitalization, the term of the PTP ends. A return to the PTP requires a new application to the court.



If you are interested in a more detailed description of the Progressive Treatment Program, you can go to the website for the DHHS, Office of Adult Mental Health Services at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mh> under Rights and Legal Issues or contact the **Office of Adult Mental Health Services, State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services, (207) 287-4250, State House Station #11, Hospital Street, Marquardt Building, 2nd Floor, Augusta, Maine 04333-0040**